

emerged from a conclave NBLCA facilitated last October that was co-chaired by Rev. Calvin Butts, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York, and Bishop T.D. Jakes, pastor of the Potter's House in Dallas.

The strategy would set goals and time-tables and identify needed resources. It would make sure the 10 agencies that administer AIDS programs coordinate and communicate with one another. In short, it would be a road map about how we respond to the AIDS epidemic in the United States.

The United States requires countries that receive help under PEPFAR to have such a strategy yet the United States itself does not have one. More than ironic, that's tragic.

The impact AIDS is having on our citizens, especially those in the black community, is alarming—and it's getting worse. If we don't mobilize now and make sure that we're attacking this disease with as much energy, resources and intelligence as we can muster, we will someday wonder how we let such a disaster happen.

Despite all the bad news, there can be hope. I came away from the International AIDS Conference encouraged that we are determined as never before to fight the disease. I came away from the conference—and I think many of my fellow delegates from all over the world did, too—much more committed to this cause.

HONORING SANDRA POINDEXTER ON BEING NAMED MICHIGAN'S PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Sandra Poindexter of Marquette, Michigan. Professor Poindexter has been named Michigan's Professor of the Year and I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring her for this accomplishment.

Sandra Poindexter, who teaches information systems at Northern Michigan University, has been recognized as Distinguished Professor of the Year by the presidents of Michigan's 15 public universities. She is being honored for her sustained commitment to creating and infusing innovative teaching strategies and experiential learning opportunities into the classroom.

This special recognition for Professor Poindexter is the most recent of many she has received for her innovations to learning, which expand the classroom into the community and around the world. Some of her special innovations to learning include creatively integrating the Internet and notebook computers into academic environments, forming team-based and service-learning experiences and also fostering international education through student and faculty exchange programs and developing the International Information Technology Student Conference.

Northern Michigan University in the Upper Peninsula is committed to the high-quality, visionary teaching that Sandra Poindexter embodies and this special award celebrates her many contributions to the academic world.

Madam Speaker, as Sandra Poindexter accepts the honor of being named Michigan's Professor of the Year, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in congratulating her on this momentous

occasion. Teachers like her are always appreciated and I thank her for her contributions to education.

JOB CREATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7110, the Job Creation and Unemployment Relief Act. Millions of Americans are struggling to make ends meet during these extremely difficult economic times. The budgets of American families are being squeezed as the price of gas, food, housing and healthcare continue to increase, while wages are down and unemployment is up. The number of unemployed Americans is the highest it has been since 1992. The economy has lost jobs for 8 straight months, with 605,000 American jobs lost this year. Last month alone, 84,000 Americans lost their jobs.

In February, I was pleased to vote in favor of the first economic stimulus package when it passed the House. However, I was disappointed that, because of Republican opposition and the need to move the bill quickly, it did not include increases in unemployment benefits, Food Stamps, Medicaid payments to States, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program benefits, or infrastructure investments, all of which would have a significant stimulative effect on our economy. As a result, a number of studies have concluded that the stimulus package only had a negligible effect on our economy.

Seven months later, the recession has only worsened. The crisis on Wall Street continues to expand, with the largest bank collapse in our Nation's history occurring on Thursday, and more and more banks coming to government, hat in hand, asking to be bailed out. The time has come to take care of the millions of working families across America who have been struggling for years under the Bush economy, before we swoop in to rescue Wall Street with billions of taxpayer dollars.

H.R. 7110 provides a critical additional 7 weeks of extended benefits for workers who have exhausted regular unemployment compensation, with workers in high unemployment States eligible for an additional 13 weeks of benefits. Studies have shown that extending unemployment insurance is one of the quickest forms of economic stimulus because workers who have lost their jobs spend those benefits quickly.

This package also provides a crucial temporary increase in Medicaid payments to States. These funds will help States offset the increased cost of Medicaid as more people apply for assistance while healthcare costs continue to skyrocket. While Governor Blagojevich is struggling to maintain benefits in Illinois, we have already seen other States cutting eligibility and services, and more reductions will occur if we do not provide increased temporary assistance. As we know from past financial downturns when we took similar action, increased Federal payments are not only important to the children, senior citi-

zens, persons with disabilities and others who rely on Medicaid but will stimulate the economy quickly and substantially as well.

Finally, this package also contains \$12.8 billion for our Nation's deteriorating highways and bridges; \$1 billion for repair and construction projects of public housing units; and \$3 billion to repair crumbling schools, including technology upgrades and energy-efficiency improvements, which likewise will have an immediate stimulative effect on the economy. These projects provide short-term benefit by putting people to work immediately—with funding, work can begin on many of them tomorrow—and they provide long-term improvements that will benefit Americans for years to come.

This is an excellent package, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in creating good jobs and providing assistance to those struggling in today's economy.

HONORING RAMADAN

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of introspection, fasting and spiritual renewal.

Throughout the entire 9th month of the Islamic calendar year, Muslims demonstrate their devotion by fasting from sunrise until sunset. The month of Ramadan is also an important time for Muslim families and communities as they join together in expression of their devotion.

Many Muslims use this time to seek physical and spiritual renewal. In fact, more than 25,000 Muslims in my Congressional District observe this celebration to mark their steadfast commitments to faith, family and heritage.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in acknowledging the celebration of the month of Ramadan and wishing Muslims a peaceful holiday.

HONORING THE WORK OF DEAN STEVEN OLSON

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize Steve Olson, who has recently retired as Dean of Occupational Education and Economic Development at Santa Rosa Junior College, SRJC.

Dean Olson began his career as a Plant Science Instructor at SRJC in 1970, and was named Department Chair in 1974. Thirteen years later, he was selected as Dean of Instruction, Educational Programs and Services. In this role he administered a variety of programs for the college including the Agriculture Department, the college's Shone Farm, international education, as well as Community Outreach and Development.

During his tenure at SRJC, he helped establish the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department and the college farm. He also expanded course offerings to more than 50 sites